

**ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY DISORDER EXPERIENCED BY
IGOR MALEV, THE MAIN CHARACTER IN PAULO COELHO'S
NOVEL *THE WINNER STANDS ALONE* (2009):
AN ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**



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ABSTRACT

The problem of this study “How is the antisocial personality disorder (ASDP) reflected in Paulo Coelho The Winner Stands Alone Novel (2009). The objectives of the study are to analyze the novel based on its structural elements and to analyze the novel based on Abnormal Psychology.

The researcher employs qualitative method. In this method, the writer uses two data sources; primary and secondary. The primary data source is the novel itself. The secondary data sources are the books about abnormal psychology and other sources, which are related to the analysis, such as official website, related theories. The method of data collection is library research and technique of data collection is descriptive and hermeneutic technique.

Based on the analysis, the researcher draws conclusions as follows: The first is based on structural elements which consist of ; character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, style and theme. Those elements make unity and coherence. So that they form an artistic novel. The second is based on abnormal psychology, Igor Malev has experienced personality disturbance called antisocial personality disorder. The symptoms of this disorder according to DSM-IV TR and ICD-10 are ;1) deception, as indicated by repeatedly lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure;2) irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults; lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt;3) callous unconcern for the feelings of others. The causes of ASPD which happened to Igor Malev were social and psychological factors. He experienced sad childhood and also unworthy war in Afghanistan.

Key words: personality disturbance, antisocial personality disorder, abnormal psychology

A. Introduction

The Winner Stands Alone is a novel by Paulo Coelho and was published by HarperCollins Publisher Ltd in 2008. The book was first published in Portuguese under the title *O Vencedor está Só*. It is the thirteenth major book by Coelho. In 2009, the English version was published with the same publishing company and Margaret Jull Costa as the translator. The novel consists of 343 pages and divided into thirty two chapters. *The Winner Stands Alone* has sold its rights to 44 languages

Paulo Coelho was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on August 24, 1947. He is a lyricist, musician and novelist. Paulo Coelho is one of the most widely read authors in the world. His books have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide, have been translated into 68 languages, and have been published in 150 countries. He was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2007. He is the recipient of numerous international awards, amongst them the Crystal Award by the World Economic Forum. His other literary works *The Alchemist*, *The Pilgrimage*, *The Valkyries*, *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*, *The Fifth Mountain*, *Veronika Decides to Die*, *Warrior of Light: A Manual*, *Eleven Minutes*, *The Zahir*, *The Devil and Miss Prym*, *The Witch of Portobello*, *Brida*. In total, Coelho has published 30 books. Three of them – *The Pilgrimage*, *The Valkyries* and *Aleph* – are autobiographical, while the majority of the rest are fictional, although rooted in his life experiences.

The Winner Stands Alone is set in the exciting worlds of fashion and cinema. Taking place over the course of twenty-four hours during the Cannes Film Festival, it is the story of Igor, a successful, driven Russian entrepreneur who will go to the darkest lengths to reclaim a lost love—his ex-wife, Ewa. Believing that his life with Ewa was divinely ordained, Igor once told her that he would destroy whole worlds to get her back. The conflict between an individual evil force and society emerges, and as the novel unfolds, morality is derailed.

The story takes place in twenty four hours in the Film Festival Cannes, French. It supposed to happen in the month of May. Where there were thousands of interesting and famous people around the world gather to appreciate many kinds of films. In Cannes, there are so many people with different background and motives. They have dreams to be the people in the status “Superclass”. Coelho’s term for people of Power. “The Superclass, “ he says, “rules the world; their arguments are subtle, their voices soft, their smile discreet, but their decision are final. In Cannes, the Superclass is consisted of film, fashion, money and fame. Those belonging to the Superclass arrive in private jet and get regular Botox injections.

Igor, the main character feels that this is the right time to have action as what he planned six months earlier. He is so obsessed to get her ex-wife in his arm again. He flew from Russia to French with his own jet plane, only for one mission to take his wife back, whom already married with famous designer from Middle East, Hamid Husein. Igor will do anything to fulfill his obsession including ends someone’s life. Throughout the day, he killed seven people without any feeling of guilt. He chose his victims randomly. He sent a message through mobile phone with hidden number to his ex-wife each time he just murdered a man and told her that he has destroyed someone’s world. But Ewa seems indifferent since she always near with her husband, but indeed she was very anxious. She knows who sent the message. Yet, she knows exactly who Igor is (she spent almost twenty years live with him). She knows that her ex-husband is a person with mental illness. At the end of his adventure, he ended Ewa’s and Hamid’s life and feels that he is the winner.

The matter that most attracting to the writer is the main character personality. Igor Malev is forty years old success telecommunication businessman from Russia. He is neat, charming and very intelligent. Unfortunately, he has unusual personality, people say it as abnormal personality. He has obsseion to get his ex-wife back. He chose the right moments to show to Ewa that he cannot live without her, that is in the

Cannes Film Festival. Ewa left Igor to married Hamid Hussein, a famous fashion designer. Of course Ewa will join the Festival as the wife of the popular *haute-couture*. Through the day in the Festival he can accomplish what he planned six months before. He would do anything to make his dream come true. He possessed abundant money and brain to realize his will. He has done a series of assassination to several people during 24 hours in the Cannes Festival. He killed the victims randomly. He suffocates a street vendor on a park bench by employing the Russian martial art of *Sambo*, and he shoots a film distributor with a poison needle. Igor's wealth gives him access to the *curare* he puts on the needle's tip and to other specialized weapons such as the hermetically sealed envelope filled with hydrogen cyanide he passes along to unsuspecting recipient.

Igor, who seems confuse good and evil, thinks that by murdering somebody, Ewa, his ex-wife will get the message and will consider back to him again. He did unhuman deed without any feeling of guilt. However, evil has covered him. He thinks that the people he killed will be much thank to him because he already set them free from the burden they had.

From that personality side, the writer curious about a person who has unbalanced mental like Igor Malev, and repeatedly read the novel. The writer is interested in exploring what is happening with Igor Malev, especially the personality disorder he possessed and its manifestations. That's why the writer will analyze the novel, "The Winner Stands Alone" by using psychological approach and abnormal psychology definitely.

The objectives of the study are the following; to analyze the novel based on Abnormal Psychology.

B. Research Methodology

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It aims to analyze novel using psychological approach especially abnormal psychology. The steps to conduct the research are (1) determining the type of the study, is the

words, phrases, and sentences in *The Winner Stands Alone* (2009) by Paulo Coelho, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining the technique of data collection, and (5) determining the technique of data analysis.

C. Finding and Discussion

1. Finding

The character of Igor Malev indicates that he has personality disorder according to both DSM-IV TR and ICD 10, especially antisocial personality or people say 'psychopath'. Although he does not experience all the symptom as mentioned, the experts claimed that he has at least having three of the characters.

- a. According to DSM-IV TR, 2000 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders)

There is a pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others occurring since age 15 years, as indicated by three or more of the following:

- 1) Deception, as indicated by repeatedly lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure.

When he came to Cannes, he used a fake name and passport, so nobody would recognize him. He used alias in order to be not known by other people.

Igor Malev told to Gabriela and Jasmine that his name was Gunther and explained that he was a German industrialist specializing in heavy machinery and had been invited there by friends. (p.296).

It was obviously shown that Igor Malev was a manipulative man. He did not want his real identity to be known by other people.

- 2) Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest.

In the case of Igor Malev, it is obviously that he was a man with mental disturbance. He killed many people. It shows that he neglected other's rights.

"No one, absolutely no one, can threaten our privacy. We've spent long enough creating a fairer, more humane society. Anyone who fails to respect our moments of freedom should be removed in such a way that they'll never even consider coming back."p.91

- 3) Lack of remorse

Igor Malev had no feeling guilty at all when he killed people. Despite of being guilty or sorry what had he done, he thought that he did the right thing.

When he have romantic dinner in Irkskuts, Siberia with his wife, Ewa, there was a beggar who according to him was annoying. Without Ewa's consideration he killed the man. He said

"I saved him from a filthy, hopeless life in those freezing winters, with his body being slowly destroyed by booze. I let his soul depart toward the light because the moment he came into that restaurant to destroy our happiness, I knew that his spirit was inhabited by the Evil One." (p.94)

He's a good man, and when ever he's been obliged to behave harshly, it has been in the name of a greater cause: serving his country, saving the marginalized from unnecessary suffering. P.201

- 4) The individual is at least age 18 years.

Someone can be characterized as a person with antisocial personality disorder whenever he or she is at least 18 years old.

In the novel, Paolo Coelho often explained the condition of Igor Malev and mentioned his age, that is forty years old.

He has just turned forty, is in good physical shape, and, according to his annual checkup, has no health problems. P.9

b. According to ICD-10

The WHO's *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*, tenth edition (ICD-10) mentioned the characteristics of ASPD at least three of the following:

1) Callous unconcern for the feelings of others.

Igor Malev did not concern about other's feeling, what he really cared was only his needs. This can be found in the statement below:

He has another task to fulfill here: he must find someone he can sacrifice in the name of love. He needs a victim, so that Ewa will get his message that very morning.p.11

The statement shows that Igor was very selfish. He has a high egocentrism. He did not care about other's feeling. He only thought about the kindness for his own sake.

2) Incapacity to maintain enduring relationships, though having no difficulty in establishing them.

Igor failed in his marriage. Ewa, his wife left him and married to a fashion designer. He always promised to his wife he would fix all the things when Ewa started to complain that they were having time together rarely. But, he felt he already gave a better solution when he bought a fashion store for Ewa. Left by Ewa, he found another women but he did it for fun.

He has no difficulty in finding women, regardless of whether they know how much money he has he's tested it out on more than one occasion and never failed yet.(p.9)

The explanation shows that he had find other women and they are always succeeded to be conquered by Igor

without they know that Igor was a rich man. This is one of the sign of people who has disorder in their personality.

- 3) Very low tolerance to frustration and a low threshold for discharge of aggression, including violence.

In Igor's mind Ewa would never leave him, because she owed much from him. If she did that, she would realize her mistake soon and begged him to receive her back. In fact, Ewa never regreted to leave Igor. She was too much afraid of him. Igor lost his temper and planned to do violence to other people to get Ewa's back.

As shown in the conversation between Igor Malev and Olivia (his first victim on that day)

"But I paid you to listen to me. I paid enough to cover your whole working day."

She puts her hand in her pocket to give him back the money, but at that moment, she sees the pistol pointing at her face.

"Sit down."

Her first impulse is to run. The elderly couple are still slowly approaching.

"Don't run away," he says, as if he could read her thoughts. "I haven't the slightest intention of firing the gun if you'll just sit down again and hear me out. If you don't try anything and do as I say, then I swear I won't shoot." P.18.

From the conversation, it can be concluded that Igor Malev harmed other people to get his own satisfaction.

The other evidence shows when Igor employed one of the top private surveillance agencies—normally used for industrial or political espionage—which meant having to look at hundreds of photos in which his wife appeared hand in hand with her new companion.p.198

- 4) Incapacity to experience guilt or to profit from experience, particularly punishment.

Igor Malev never showed a feeling of guilt, even though he had been killed many people during the war in Afghanistan. He also murdered a poor man when he had dinner with Ewa in Siberia. He also can live without burden on his shoulder when he shot Ewa and Hamid, and also taking other five life during a day in Cannes. It is obviously shows that he has an ASPD mental disturbance.

- 5) Gross and persistent attitude of irresponsibility and disregard for social norms, rules, and obligations

From the description below Igor was irresponsible man. He did not responsible for his deed and always convinced that it was right. When he did not achieve what he desires without hesitation he would do anything including breaking the law.

Hamid assumes that Igor is just another adult and that he can confront him with either physical force or logical argument. What he doesn't know is that Absolute Evil has the heart of a child and takes no responsibility for its actions and is convinced that it's right. And when it doesn't get what it wants, it's not afraid to use all possible means to satisfy its desires. p.316-317

- 6) Marked readiness to blame others to offer plausible rationalizations for the behaviour that has brought the person into conflict with society.

Igor always felt that he did everything right. He always had a person or thing to be 'blacksheep'. From the conversation below, it can be concluded that Igor blamed Ewa for their broken marriage

You're a selfish, implacable woman, interested only in acquiring more fame and more money. You refused all the good things I offered you because a house deep in the Russian countryside didn't fit in with your dream world, a world, by the way, to which you don't belong and never will.

“I sacrificed myself and others for your sake, and that’s not right. I need to go to the very end, so that I can return to the world of the living with a sense of duty done and mission completed. Now, as we speak, I’m in the world of the dead.”p.324

“You betrayed me, not just during the two years you’ve spent with this man, but during all the years we spent together.”p.326

There are three factors that caused antisocial personality disorder. The factors as follow:

1) Biological and Genetic Factor

This factor connected with the brain system. There might be a damage in the brain system when somebody has personality disorder. He might be also inherits from their parents.

2) Social Factor

This factor describes such as how a person interacts in their early development with their family and friends and other children

3) Psychological Factor

The individual’s personality and temperament shaped by their environment and learned coping skills to deal with stress

In the novel, Paolo Coelho unfortunately did not mention the early life of Igor Malev. He only stated through his character, Ewa, that Igor Malev had experienced a sad childhood. He also ever sent to war in Afghanistan by Russian government.

The description as follows:

She remembered certain late-night conversations with him when he was still a young man and how he had told her that, during the war in Afghanistan, he had sometimes been forced to kill in self-defense. She had never seen regret or remorse in his eyes.

“I survived, and that’s what matters. My life could have ended one sunny afternoon, or at dawn in the snow-covered mountains, or one night when we were playing cards in our tent, confident that the situation was under control. And if I had died, nothing would have changed in the world. I would have been just another statistic for the army and another medal for my family.

“But Jesus helped me, and I was blessed with quick reactions. And because I survived the hardest tests a man can face, fate has given me the two most important things in life: success at work and the person I love.” P.93

In another description, the state of mind of Igor Malev is shown below;

Now she understands how it was that the Angel changed so quickly into a Devil: because he has always nursed vengeance and rancor in his heart, even though he claimed to have grown up and overcome all his traumas; because he’s unbeatable when it comes to succeeding in life, thus confirming his belief in his own omnipotence; because he doesn’t know how to give up, having survived the worst possible torments through which he walked without so much as a backward glance, all the while repeating to himself: “One day, I’ll be back, and then you’ll see what I’m capable of.”p.317

From the description above, the causal factor is from the social or environment. The environment factor builds our character and personality stronger than genetic factor. No wonder people could change their behaviour and personality depends on what environment they are raised.

2. DISCUSSION

The analysis above shows that Paolo Coelho wants to give description of figure with personality disorder. Without being realized, there are people like Igor Malev surrounding us. The novel *The Winner Stands Alone* is dominated by the state of mind of the main character, Igor Malev.

The analysis of antisocial personality disorder covers the symptoms of antisocial personality disorder which can be done through DSM-IV TR and ICD-10. Both organization have almost similarity in judging whether a person undergoes an antisocial personality disorder. The analysis also covers the causes of ASPD, psychology expert called them as biopsychosocial that is, the causes of are likely due to biological and genetic factors, social factors (such as how a person interacts in their early development with their family and friends and other children), and psychological factors (the individual's personality and temperament, shaped by their environment and learned coping skills to deal with stress). This suggests that no single factor is responsible; it is the complex and likely intertwined nature of all three factors that are important. If a person has this personality disorder, research suggests that there is a slightly increased risk for this disorder to be "passed down" to their children.(www.psychcentral.com).

From the analysis, it can be understood that Igor Malev became a serial killer (he murdered seven people in a day without any feeling of guilt) and he thought he did the right things because he had wrong perception about life and love. The way he thought was absolutely different from common sense since he had the requirements to be characterized as someone who possessed antisocial personality disorder or in our society it is commonly called psychopath.

Unfortunately, the person who has disorder never admitted that he needs treatment. So, this is still our homework as the member of society since we may face this kind of person in our real life.

The relationship between literature and psychology is very intimate. Literary works is a form and a result of creative art work whose object is human and the life of human, and it uses language as a medium. As a work of art not only as a media to express his/her creativity but also as a media to cover idea, theory and the way of thinking. Human in facing his problems is always bound to the soul and

mind of the human itself. Literary work, including the novel as the result of the writer's creativity always show the character that can describe psychological side of the human, even though the writer creates them as fiction characters. Literary works always involve every angle of life, including psychology.

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1962) in *The Theory of Literature* mentioned that:

The psychology of character is manifested vividly in the novel *The Winner Stands Alone*. It describes the psychological phenomenon which is experienced by Igor Malev, the main character. Paulo Coelho created the character that underwent personality disturbance, called antisocial personality disorder (known also as psychopath). However, they also mentioned that;

For some conscious artist, psychology may have tightened their sense of reality, sharpened their powers of observation or allowed them to fall into hitherto undiscovered patterns. But, in itself, psychology is only preparatory to the act of creation and in the work itself, psychological truth is an artistic value only if it enhance coherence and complexity-if, in short, it is art. p. 88

Paulo Coelho as the novelist created the characters and plot of the story smartly. He successful to make the characters seem alive because he related them to the real psychology in our real life.

D. Conclusion

The Winner Stands Alone portrays a psychological phenomenon, which is manifested through its main character, Igor Malev. It gives brief description about someone with personality disorder. According to psychology, what happened with Igor Malev is shown a disturbance. There is branch in psychology that studies about this disorder named abnormal psychology. Igor Malev showed several signs or symptoms that can be

categorized as personality disorder named antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). The analysis of antisocial personality disorder covers the symptoms of antisocial personality disorder which can be done through DSM-IV TR and ICD-10.

In *the Winner Stands Alone*, Paulo Coelho delivers a message that in our real life or real world there are many people who live in a false perception about life, good and evil. He made this story because many people today are likely to have a lack of empathy among others. They only think about themselves and their own sake. He reminds the readers not to be so self-centered.

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